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THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY
NOVEMBER, 1938

A $5 EXTRA CAN MAKE OR BREAK A $1,000,000 MOVIE:

A WASTED MINUTE COST DURING THE FILMING OF "IF I WERE KING"

MANIPULATING movie mobs is Hollywood's hottest headache. To be successful, a director must be a combination Napoleon, Rembrandt and J. P. Morgan. But Frank ("Cavalcade") Lloyd relishes such assignments and shoots them in record time because he sweats for months over the tiniest details of such scenes. Long before a camera whirred on this pitched battle in "If I Were King," all of the 300 medieval mobsters and soldiers knew exactly what to do and how to do it, having been drilled like West Pointers. With a million-dollar budget and 51-day production schedule, filming of this elderly but durable classic cost $3000 an hour. Lloyd, on the evening CLICK'S camera men visited the set, put this difficult scene "into the can" in the astounding time of 35 minutes. But even painstaking preparation could not prevent accidents and other delays, some of which are shown here. These candid photos, taken behind the scenes of one of 1938's most ambitious pictures, emphasize the fact that the real hero or villain of a million-dollar movie may be the humble $5-a-day extra.

HER FOOT squashed by an unruly horse during the exciting mob scene, this woman extra is given first aid.

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$5 EXTRA

MEDIEVAL extras, with 18 minutes for lunch, go for a 1938 cuppa cawfee.

RUNNING a sword through a foeman's body is a simple job in the movies, and Director Frank Lloyd shows how to do it. The mortally wounded soldier doesn't mind.

RONALD COLMAN and Frances Dee present Frank Lloyd with a birthday cake on his 25th anniversary in movies.

(continued)

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A PARIS cut-throat snoozes on the fender while a new camera set-up is made. Despite his power, Francois Villon never owned a straight eight.

THE SWORD looks like the real McCoy on the screen, but it has dull edges so that it won't hurt—much!

COLMAN and Dee? Oh, no! They're the stars' "shadows," once known as "stand-ins."

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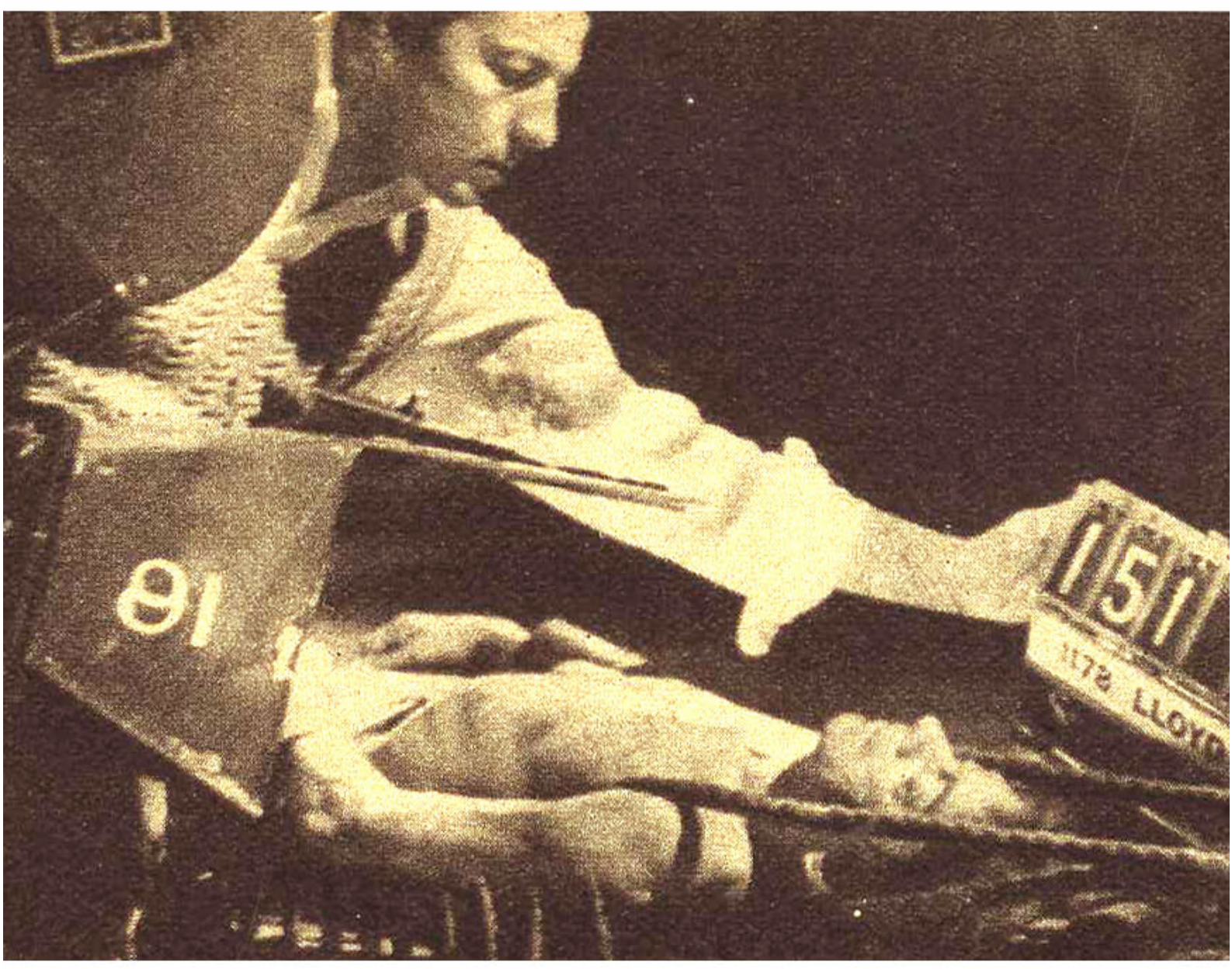
$5 EXTRA

A $5 EXTRA: CONTINUED

SHUDDER SHOT! A peasant is to be tortured on a bed of spikes in "If I Were King." Lloyd reaches for the towel. Now we'll watch the poor fellow get the works.

LLOYD SQUEEZES water over the extra's face. This will appear as perspiration when the victim registers agony. Just now, the drops tickle the peasant, and he laughs. Even Basil Rathbone smiles.



A MARKER is the first shot taken by the camera. Looking like an auto license plate, it identifies the sequence. Movie scenes do not follow one another as written in the script.

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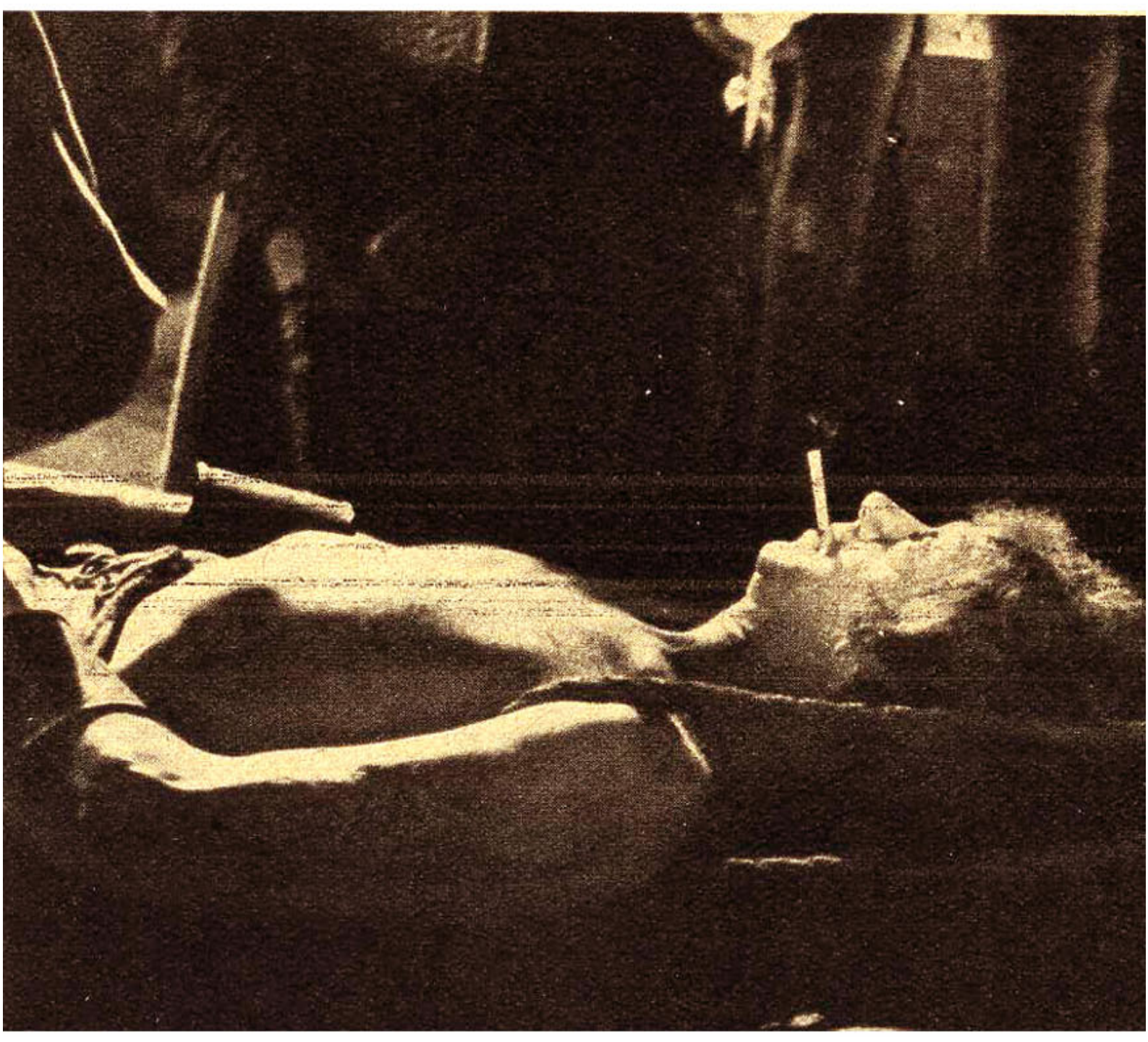
HERE'S what you see on the screen. The peasant is stretched out on the rack. Rathbone, the movies' super-stinkie, directs the torture in the role of Louis XI, and utters the old-time equivalent of "So you won't talk, hey?"



A CIGARETTE is mercifully stuck into the sufferer's mouth after the "take" has been made. A few puffs, and he'll be ready to undergo the excruciating torment all over again for the benefit of the long shot camera.

ANOTHER VIEW of the torture being applied. Lying on a bed of spikes was not exactly fun.

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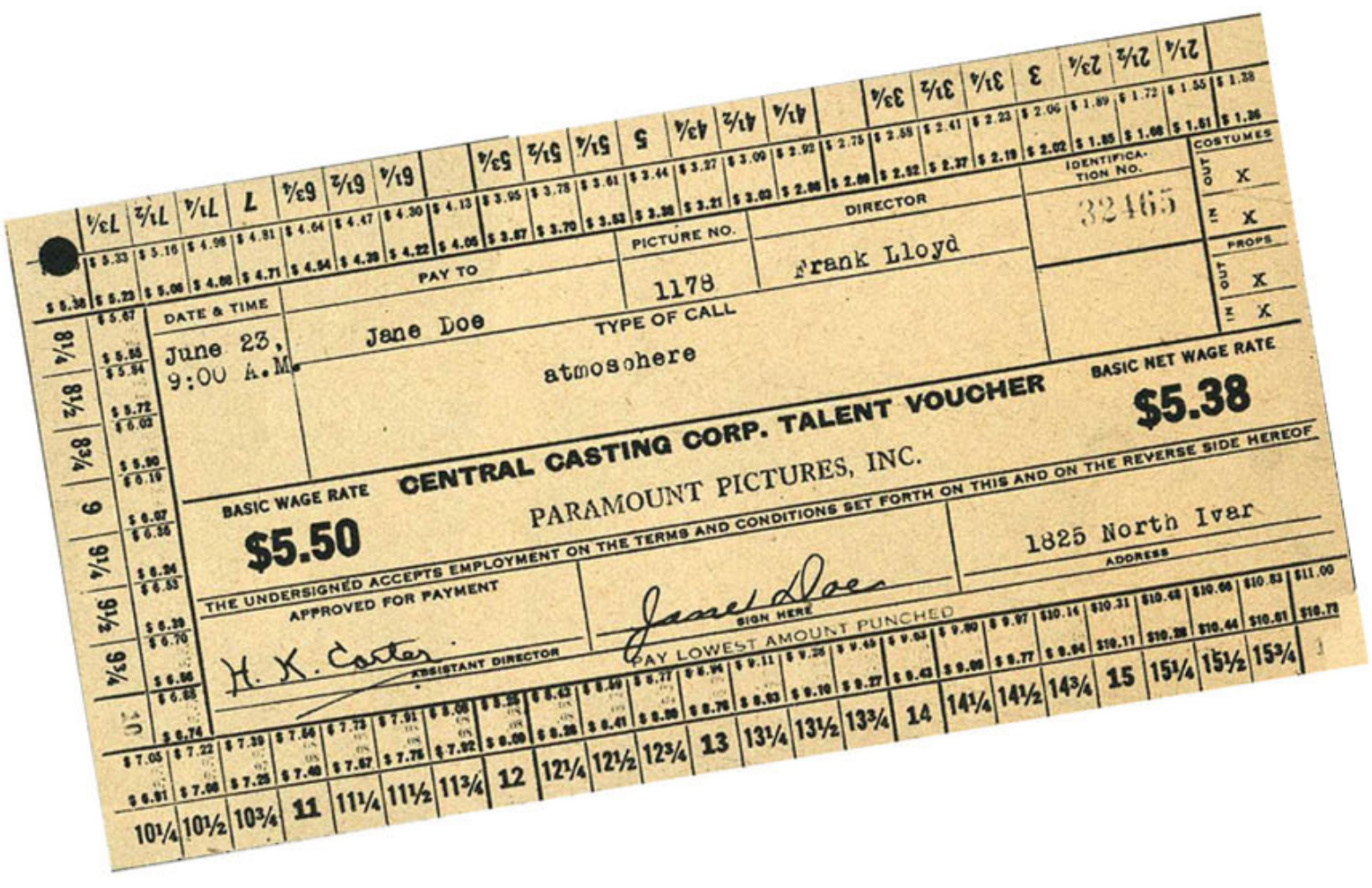
SWORDS GLINT in the air, and even grandma and the girls let their hair down and join in the merry mayhem. Although some of the combatants seem to be boondoggling, the wrestling, the the foreground in their work as they bash one another onto the imitation cobblestones.



THIS "TALENT VOUCHER" gives the extra $5.38 for a day's toil. Hollywood's Central Casting Bureau is swamped with applicants. Most extras get but a few days' work a year. How they survive is a mystery.

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